● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

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[RUSH] **MESSAGE:** Page 7, line 5 of the specification is missing data ('Foreign application number)

Thank you

[XRUSH] **RESPONSE:** Corrected

Brian Szymanski 571-737-9138 **INITIALS:** BS

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nozzles or slits and thereby the coagulation is achieved. The high pressures are produced by a so-called homogenizer. This technology does not work for elastomer dispersions due to clogging and jamming the equipment.

As suggested in ~~DE ..... (filed of even date herewith, our reference number DYN 2000/U002) these difficulties can be overcome~~ by generating high pressures with pressurized gases from 50 to 400 bar ($5 \cdot 10^6$ to $4 \cdot 10^7$ Pa).

In contrast to the process disclosed in US-A-5 463 021 the coagulation by this technique appears to be brought about by the rapid expansion of the dissolved gas, preferably via a nozzle.

The preferred gases for use with this process are nitrogen, air or CO_2.

In yet another coagulation process a volatile water-miscible organic solvent effects the coagulation. The solvent is selected from the group consisting of alkanols of 1 to 4 carbon atoms and ketones of 2 or 3 carbon atoms. The said solvents should not have a significant swelling effect onto the said polymer, lest the coagulated or agglomerated polymer becomes too sticky thus impairing the work-up.

Mechanical and thermal methods for coagulating polymers are known from US-A-5 463 021, EP-B-0 084 837, EP-B-0 226 668 and EP-B-0 460 284.

After being coagulated the fluoropolymer may be dewatered. One method of dewatering the polymer is by mechanical dewatering. This process is described in US-A-4 132 845.

The wet polymers can be dried, usually in a temperature range of from 110 °C, preferably 150 °C, to 250 °C, in the presence of a carrier gas like air or nitrogen.

In the following preferred embodiments with the respect to fluoroelastomers are described in more detail:

German Patent Application number 10004229.5, filed on February 1, 2000, these difficulties can be overcome

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